

Bilzin Sumberg Update

What's new with us...

March 2006

 **Bilzin Sumberg**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Litigation Associates Gain Trial Experience through Court Volunteer Program

In an effort to give our younger lawyers more trial experience, the Litigation Group actively supports the Volunteer Lawyers Program - an initiative started by the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. Volunteer Lawyer Program participants take on cases for indigent civil litigants who cannot otherwise afford representation. The job of the volunteers is to resolve the case whether it be through settlement negotiations or a trial on the merits.



Annette Urena

Last month, Litigation associate **Annette Urena** had the opportunity to participate in the program. She represented an inmate with a serious medical need that was allegedly being denied his constitutional right to medical care. Once assigned to the case, Annette was responsible for the

entire litigation under the supervision of Alvin Lodish. After working under assigned deadlines, attending the pre-trial conference, gathering exhibits, meeting with witnesses, preparing the opening and directs and conferring with opposing counsel, Annette successfully reached a settlement for her client and avoided a potentially lengthy trial!

Not only did Annette successfully represent her client, but she also gained valuable hands-on trial experience. "I learned how to judge a case and analyze the risks and potential for success," said Annette. "Through collaboration with opposing counsel, I had the opportunity to work with lawyers in a different area of law that I wouldn't normally work in."

Honorable Patricia A. Seitz of the federal southern district oversaw the case and was happy to see Bilzin Sumberg supporting the Volunteer Lawyer Program. "The judge took the time to explain her trial procedures and expectations to me," said Annette. "She gave me invaluable advice that I probably would not have received otherwise. She was very thankful and excited that our firm was helping to move the case along."

Congratulations, Annette!



Ode to the Madness

This month the firm will be in full swing for March Madness - otherwise known as the NCAA Championships. Who do you think will win? Here's a sampling of the named partners' dialogue when asked what their picks for National Champion were:

Scott Baena: "Duke. John, despite the fact that you don't follow basketball I urge you not to pick Yale as it would reveal too much about your knowledge in this area."

John Sumberg: "Too late."

Brian Bilzin: "The University of Michigan, as I used to play for them."

Stanley Price: "Connecticut"

Alan D. Axelrod: "Duke"

The moral of the story - don't depend on your alma mater when making your picks!

You are invited to join in the Madness and pick your tournament winners in our online group brackets! To sign up and make your selections, visit

<http://bilzinsumberg.mayhem.sportsline.com/brackets> and enter "bsbpa" as your password. More details will be sent out to participants - the deadline to join in the fun is March 14th. Winners will be entitled to bragging rights for the entire summer, as well as notoriety in next month's edition of the *Bilzin Sumberg Update!* Good luck!



Bilzin Sumberg March Birthdays

Arnie Brown
Adam Haimo
Stephen Rubin

Allen Smith
Lori Schumacher

This Month's DealMakers


- **Marty Schwartz** and **Javier Granda** successfully represented American Land Ventures in the sale of a recently completed high rise residential building in Ft Lauderdale to an affiliate of the Carlyle Group for \$102 million.
- **Al Dotson** led our client, Concessions International in winning an RFP for one of the largest food service contracts ever awarded at the Miami International Airport. The vote by the Board of County Commissioners was unanimous.
- **Adam Lustig, Marshall Pasternack** and **Sheila Bhandari** represented Cypress Creek Capital and Boynton OP LLC in the \$10.9 million sale of the 43,000-square-foot LA Fitness property located at the Shoppes of Boynton mall in Boynton Beach.

In the News

- **Michael Kreitzer** has been featured in local and national press, quoted in major publications and recently participated in a press conference surrounding the recent issue of the United Arab Emirates control of the Port of Miami. He represents Eller & Company, who owns a 25 percent share in the Port of Miami Terminal Operating Company, which handles half the cargo containers that come through the port. Featured publications and broadcasts include *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNN with Lou Dobbs*, *Fox News*, *The Washington Times*, *National Public Radio (NPR)*, *The New York Times* and *The Miami Herald*.
- **Allison Hift** was quoted in the *Bradenton Herald*, *Sarasota Herald Tribune* and *The Tampa Tribune* on her representation of Verizon in recent negotiations to expand fiber optic television service in Manatee County, Florida.
- **Al Dotson** was featured in a *Miami Today* article on his recent installation as the 68th President of the Orange Bowl Committee.
- **Alan Axelrod** and **Steve Lear** were listed as "Top DealMakers of 2005" in the *Daily Business Review* for their work in Mergers & Acquisitions.

For more information on current firm news and events, visit our web site at www.bilzin.com. If you are interested in attending any upcoming events or would like to request copies of news articles, please contact Jessica Buchsbaum at 305.375.6151 or jbuchsbaum@bilzin.com.

Upcoming Events

- Golf, anyone? Bilzin Sumberg is sponsoring a hole at the University of Florida's John Marshall Bar Association Golf Tournament to benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation. You are all invited to play on our firm's team! To sign up, please contact Jessica Buchsbaum before March 15th. 
- The firm will participate in an ABA telephonic seminar entitled "A Survival Guide for Construction Projects" on Tuesday, March 21st. Topics to be covered include the selection of construction formats, risk management and the construction lending process.
- **William Hill** and **Glen Waldman** will present a lunch seminar entitled "The Pros & Cons of Arbitration" on Thursday, March 23rd. Topics to be covered include the selection of arbitration settings, advantages and disadvantages of arbitration and Florida vs. Federal Arbitration Issues. Attendees will be eligible for CLE credit.
- Consulting firm BAER ESSENTIALS will present a seminar entitled "Successful Presentations for Lawyers" on Wednesday, March 29th. Attendees will be eligible for Florida or New York CLE credits.
- Jordan Kantor, of LandAmerica Exchange Company will be conducting a CLE accredited seminar on 1031 exchanges on Tuesday, April 11th at 12 noon. Lunch will be served. For those unable to attend but interested, the presentation will be videotaped.

Summer Housing Help

Need help finding housing this summer? NALP invites law students and 2006 summer clerks to visit their Apartment Exchange at www.nalpexchange.org and search/post summer housing listings from around the country. The service is free and easy to use. The Exchange will remain active online until Monday, May 15th.



Farewell, Jenette!



Best wishes to Corporate & Securities associate and Recruiting Committee member Jenette Mathai, who is leaving the firm this month to start up her private practice. We'll miss you!